(c) Details of manufacturers of cigarettes and surface designs not approved within seven days are given below:

Name of the Brand	Length of the cigarette
(i) M/s. G.T.C. Industries Limited	
(a) Gold Flake Deluxe Filter.	69 mm
(b) Panama Special (Plain) .	68 mm
(c) Panama Filter Premium .	69 mm
(ii) N.T.C. Co. Ltd., (New Tobacco Company Ltd.)	
(a) Deluxe Tenor Magnus (Plain)	59 mm
(b) Deluxe Tenor Super (Plain)	59 mm
(iii) ITC Limited	
(a) Gold Flake Honey Dew (Regular Filter) . .	68 mm

As these surface designs appeared to be deceptively similar to other surface designs already approved, Director (Audit) had to conduct necessary enquiries before taking decisions.

सिंचित भूमि का क्षेत्र फल

*252. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिसम्बर, 1989 की स्थिति के अनुसार देश में कुल कृष्य भूमि कितनी है और उसमें से कितना क्षेत्र ऐसा है, जिसके लिए सिंचाई की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं ;

(ख) आगामी तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार द्वारा कितने भूमि क्षेत्र के लिए सिंचाई की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करा दिए जाने का प्रस्ताव है; और

(ग) समस्त कृष्य भूमि को सिंचित बनाने के लिये क्या लक्ष्य तिथि निर्धारित की गयी है ?

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बनुभाई कोटाडिया) : (क) उपलब्ध नवीनतम भूमि उपयोग सांख्यिकी वर्ष 1986–87 (अन्तरिम) के अनुसार, वास्तविक बुआई क्षेत्र लगभग 140 मिलियन हेक्टेयर तथा वास्तविक सिंचित क्षेत्र लगभग 43 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है ।

(ख) आठवीं योजना के प्रस्तावों को अन्तिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है ।

(ग) समस्त कृषि योग्य भूमि को सिंचाई के अंतर्गत लाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

Appointment of Jyotsna Holding as an agent for import of Phosphates

*253. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the *Statesman* of the 27th December, 1989 regarding appointment of Jyotsna Holdings as an agent to import Phosphates from Moroccan giant, Office Cherifien des Phosphates and whether Jyotsna Holdings have technical competence to handle fertiliser imports and whether the firm is recognised by Government for the purpose;

(b) how much commission was received by the firm and whether income-tax and foreign exchange regulation provisions were observed; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the using of MMTC and STC as conduit by the bureaucrats to siphon the clandestine money and what action is proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) The News item entitled 'Jyotsna Holdings Case' that appeared in the *Statesman* of 27th December, 1989 relates to import and supply of pipes to Oil and Natural Gas Commission and does not relate to import of Phosphates by MMTC. MMTC has been importing Rock Phosphate from Morocco, negotiations for which are conducted annualiy by it directly with the supplier, viz., Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP) Morocco. MMTC has not appointed any agent for such imports nor did it have any information about the appointment of any agent|correspondent till 14th July, 1987 when M|s. OCP informed it about the appointment of one Shri Satinder Bhalla as correspondent on 14th July, 1987, whose mission is to ensure liaison between M|s. OCP's headquarters in Casablanca and all their Indian buyers. Payments towards import of Rock Phosphate was being made by MMTC to the supplier directly through normal banking channels and no payments to any one, by way of commission, have been made by MMTC.

According to the information collected by MMTC from M|s. OCP and Shri Satinder Bhalla, Shri Bhalla is being paid a remuneration of Rs. 40,000|- per month by M|s. OCP which is transferred to his bank account in New Delhi apart from reimbursement of expenses like touring and travelling, telephone, telex and stationery, entertainment, petrol etc.

Merger of regional rural banks with sponsor banks

*254. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to merge Regional Rural Banks with their sponsor banks; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Agricultural Credit Review Committee set up by the Reserve Bank in 1986 under the chairmanship of Prof. A. M. Khusro for undertaking a comprehensive review of the agricultural credit system in the country, the Reserve Bank has recommended the merger of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with the sponsor banks concerned to maintain credit delivery system for rural sector on healthy lines. According to the Committee, there has been serious erosion in the profitability of RRBs due to various reasons and merger will improve the viability of these branches.

Procedure for disposal of trainee products under carpet weaving training scheme

*255. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what procedure has been prescribed for disposal of trainee products in the Carpet Weaving Training Scheme undertaken by the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts);

(b) whether it is a fact that the procedure has mostly been violated and sales have been affected even before final rates have been worked out and also collection of payments delayed inordinately without applying the penal clause;

(c) whether it is also a fact that sales tax was not collected on such sales leading to a situation where the department has now to pay the tax; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to fix responsibility on the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The trainees products in the Carpet Weaving Training Scheme undertaken by the Office of the Develop-